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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

JOMAA *et al.*

Application No.: 10/576,882

Filed: April 21, 2006

For: An Apparatus and Method for
Allocating a Prize

Confirmation No.: 5819

Art Unit: 3714

Examiner: JONES, Marcus D.

Atty. Docket: 2471.0020000

Proposed Interview Agenda

Discuss how the contributory amount of each AGM directly affects the outcome of the jackpot.

Discuss whether expressly claiming how the contributory amount of each AGM directly affects the outcome of the jackpot would overcome the art of record, as suggested in the office action. For example, we might consider the following modification to claim 1: analysing the data associated with the determination and the data stored in the memory to determine which particular one of the gaming terminals caused the prize to be awarded *by way of its respective gaming terminal accumulated amount's impact on the particular one of the total contributory amounts*, and determining that a prize is to be allocated to that particular one of the gaming terminals.

By way of example, claim 1, as amended by this proposal, would read:

1. A method of allocating a prize using a gaming apparatus including: a primary controller for determining the award of a prize; and a plurality of auxiliary controllers capable of communication with the primary controller, the auxiliary controllers being further capable of communication with a respective set of one or more gaming terminals, comprising:

at each auxiliary controller:

receiving at the auxiliary controller data from one or more of its respective set of gaming terminals, the data including at least one gaming terminal identifier and associated gaming terminal accumulated amount;

storing the data in a memory accessible to the auxiliary controller;

deriving a total contributory amount in response to the gaming terminal accumulated amounts;

communicating the total contributory amount to the primary controller;

at the primary controller:

determining whether or not to award a prize based upon one or more of the total contributory amounts received from one or more of the auxiliary controllers, wherein a determination to award a prize is caused by a particular one of the total contributory amounts from a particular one of the auxiliary controllers;

if a prize is determined to be awarded, communicating data associated with the determination to the particular one of the auxiliary controllers; and

at the particular one of the auxiliary controllers:

analyzing the data associated with the determination and the data stored in the memory to determine which particular one of the gaming terminals caused the prize to be awarded by way of its respective gaming terminal accumulated amount's impact on the particular one of the total contributory amounts, and determining that a prize is to be allocated to that particular one of the gaming terminals.